

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /009 W
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R 170355Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1676

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5111

FOR: A/FBO WARLOW FROM GREEN; EA/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AS

SUBJ: REFURBISHINGS AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AT CANBERRA

SINCE MY ARRIVAL I HAVE BEEN MOST RELUCTANT TO PROPOSE ANY SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO REFURBISH A RESIDENCE WHICH HAS, FOR SOME YEARS, CARRIED SUCH A HIGH OVERHEAD COST. AND I DO SO NOW ONLY AFTER HAVING PERSONALLY REVIEWED THE MATTER IN DETAIL.

2. GENERALLY THE FURNISHINGS (EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW) ARE FINE, BUT MANY OF THE BASIC FLOOR COVERINGS LEAVE VERY MUCH TO BE DESIRED. MY PREDECESSORS, WITHIN THEIR 22,000 LBS OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS, HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF OVERLAY RUGS WHICH HID ALL THE SHORTCOMING OF EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS. THE EMBASSY HAS DONE A HIGHLY CREDITABLE JOB OF SCATTERING THROW RUGS HERE AND THERE, AND OF EVEN REVERTING TO PAINTING AND DYING WORN SPOTS TO MATCH EXISTING FADED COLORS, BUT THE MANY YEARS OF HEAVY WEAR CANNOT BE ERASED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE THREADBARE COVERINGS ON THE MAIN STAIRCASE AND LANDINGS, THE MOST HEAVILY TRAFFICTED AREAS, DATE BACK TO 1944, AND LITERALLY FALLS APART AT THE TOUCH; THE MASTER BEDROOM SUITE HAS THE FORMER LOUNGE RUG WHICH DATES BACK TO 1958. I COULD GO ON AND ON.

3. I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY ADMINISTRATIVE PEOPLE TO FORWARD DIRECTLY TO YOU, ON A PRIORITY BASIS, THEIR DETAILED PRESENTATION ON THE MATTER, WHICH I HAVE PERSONALLY
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REVIEWED AND VERIFIED. TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED, IN THIS

ONE TIME REQUEST, COMES TO APPROXIMATELY \$10,000 (THIS INCLUDES POSSIBLY \$2,000 FOR REPLACEMENT DRAPES AND RE-UPHOLSTERY OF KEY PIECES IN ENTERTAINMENT AREAS). REST ASSURED THAT THESE MONIES, IF ALLOCTED, WILL BE WELL USED, WITH THE END USE OF EVERY DOLLAR EXPENDED SCRUTINIZED BY ME PERSONALLY. THIS SINGLE OUTLAY, I ASSURE, WOULD RETURN THE INTERIOR OF THIS TREMENDOUS RESIDENCE TO ITS FORMER DIGNIFIED STATUS, AS TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF WILLIAMSBURG AT ITS VERY BEST.

4. I MIGHT ADD AS A POSTSCRIPT THAT SINCERE EFFORTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE EMBASSY IN THE PAST TO CORRECT THE ABOVE RESIDENCE DEFICIENCIES, HOWEVER, OTHER INTERVENING COUNTRYWIDE PRIORITIES SEEM TO HAVE REGULARLY DISSIPATED THE LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE UNDER POST'S FBO 350/620 SUB-ALLOTMENTS.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730931/aaaaawkg.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION FBO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFURBISHINGS AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AT CANBERRA SINCE MY ARRIVAL I HAVE BEEN MOST RELUCTANT TO PROPOSE ANY
TAGS: ABLD, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005